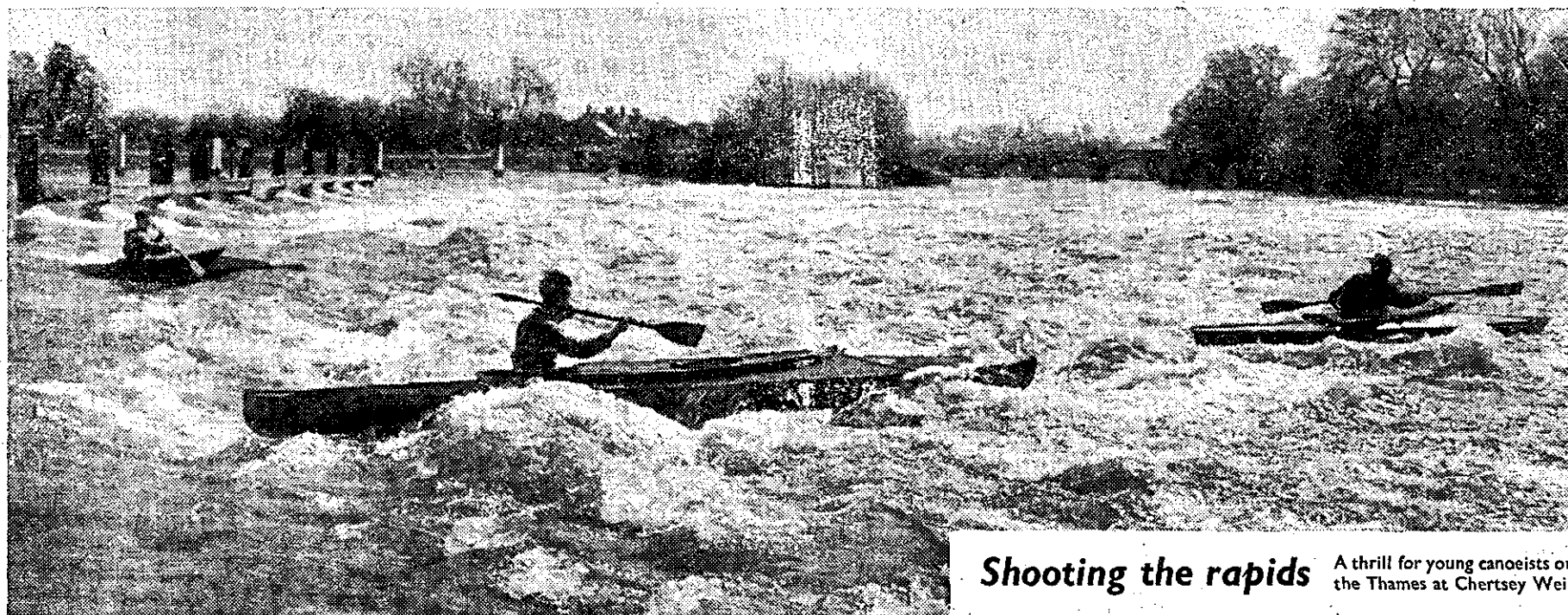


# Children's Newspaper

Every Wednesday—Threepence

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

No 1677, May 12, 1951



**Shooting the rapids** A thrill for young canoeists on the Thames at Chertsey Weir

## SCIENTISTS VISIT THE BOUNTY ISLANDS

### BIRDS BY THE MILLION

A PARTY of scientists returned recently to New Zealand from a visit to the lonely, uninhabited Bounty Islands which lie in the South Pacific some 415 miles from the Dominion's shores. The deserted islets were discovered by Captain Bligh, who named them after his ship, which was later to become famous when the crew mutinied and set him adrift in a small boat.

These 13 stormswept islands are bare of any vegetation, but in the nesting season they are covered with millions of screaming, squawking sea-birds.

The scientists had some difficulty in finding the Bounty Islands, for they are almost constantly hidden by fog. They cruised cautiously for four hours in the area before they saw the steep outline of the islands looming up before them out of the mist.

Then they made for the landing place on one of them. Here the rock is polished smooth by countless generations of birds and seals landing and taking off. To obtain a footing on this slippery rock, the visitors wore rubber soles or walked in their stockinged feet.

They were the first people to land on the islands since 1927. In that year the ruins of the old castaways' depot had been found, a rough building with stores, put there on the instructions of the Royal Navy for the use of shipwrecked mariners. The practice of keeping a depot for castaways had been dropped, and this year all that remained of the old depot was a single piece of

timber jammed between two boulders.

This birds' kingdom, however, had known castaways long before any provision was made for them. At the beginning of the last century a party of sealers, from the ship *Santa Anna*, had managed to live for a year eating seal and bird meat, and drinking water caught in sailcloth and buckets. But they were in an exhausted condition when they were rescued.

### Submerged in birds

As for the feathered inhabitants of the island, Dr Falla, leader of the recent expedition, said: "Everywhere you must move through birds. At times you are almost submerged in birds. The noise and the kaleidoscopic effect of birds whirling constantly in flight before your eyes makes you dazed."

He went on: "Think of the supply of food these millions must eat. It must run into tons each day; squid and cuttlefish for the mollymawks; cuttlefish, crustaceans, and small fishes for the penguins; and fish for the shags."

Mollymawks are sea-birds bigger than the average goose, and they have sharp beaks which they are only too willing to use, so that the human invaders approached them warily. When the scientists tried to survey the island, the mollymawks bit through their steel measuring tape in three places.

"This sort of island does not change," said Dr Falla. "Apart

Continued on page 2

## Saxpences bang in New Scotland

NEW SCOTLAND in the Eastern Transvaal has never known such prosperity as it is enjoying today. In the farmsteads they are taking up the old earthen floor and laying parquet flooring. Flat and corrugated roofs are being replaced by thatched and gabled stacks; new curtains cover the windows; there are refrigerators in the kitchens; and carpets grace the bedroom floors.

All this is because New Scotland produces the finest merino fleeces, and farmers are getting ten times the price their grandfathers received.

In 1875 New Scotland was just a wild and unexplored district without a name. Then old President Burghers, of the South African Republic, bonded 200 farms on the Swazi border to a Glasgow bank in return for a substantial loan. The men who came out from Scotland to farm the land called it New Scotland, and gave their farms names like Perth, Aberdeen, Lothian, Lomond, and the rest.

Many of those original Scottish settlers later trekked across the mountains to the goldfields, and a new generation of Afrikaans farmers took over New Scotland, but retained the names.

Today it really is a New Scotland, and farmers are driving about in shiny cars instead of primitive donkey carts.

### Silence is golden

CUSTOMS officers at Passau, Bavaria, heard childish voices calling "Mama, mama" whenever they moved a large box. When the box was opened they found it full of talking dolls on which no duty had been paid.

## Roadside attraction

BIRMINGHAM will shortly have a magnetic road sweeper—Britain's first. Designed to keep roads free from nails, odd pieces of metal, and possibly horseshoes, the sweeper will be towed behind a lorry. It has been developed from a wartime invention for clearing anti-personnel mines from airfields.

## Thirsty elephants

THERE are now more than 2000 elephants in the Wankie Reserve, Southern Rhodesia, and providing drinking water for them has become a problem.

An average elephant drinks 50 gallons of water a day, and a thirsty bull can drink 150 gallons at a time. They also use up their drinking water by squirting it over themselves—elephants will be elephants.

## DOWN ON THE FARM



A Sussex farmer spreading artificial fertiliser on his corn crop

## SHOCKS FOR SHARKS

SCIENCE has come to the aid of bathers on beaches which are sometimes made unsafe by the presence of sharks, as in Australia.

A charged electric screen is laid some distance offshore and connected to a suitable electricity supply. Any fish touching this screen receives an electric shock, and is frightened off, thus leaving the inshore waters quite safe.

Only a mild shock is given, otherwise thousands of edible fish would be killed. Then, too, there is always the chance of some venturesome bather fouling the screen; he would be the first to admit that a mild electric shock is preferable to a strong one!

## Trainer of fish and turtles

A MAN living in Key West, Florida, trains fish and turtles. His name is Raoul Vasques, and he teaches turtles to come swimming eagerly to him when he calls them by name, to climb up on his knee, eat out of his hands, and then lie there, contentedly.

While feeding a fish, Raoul always calls it by the same name. After a while, he says, the fish sticks its head up and takes a piece of shrimp or other tasty morsel from his fingers.

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## TOWN FOR SALE

THE town of Nahma, in Michigan, USA, is up for sale. The price is 250,000 dollars, and this includes an airport and a golf course.

Reason for the sale is the closing down of the town's only industry—a lumber mill.



# Why our food is still rationed

**MAY 20** marks the beginning of the new food-rationing year, and once again we find ourselves asking why the need to continue the system of rationing persists.

Surely, after the lapse of five years since the end of hostilities, we say, our Government has had all the time necessary to adjust its economy so as to permit a complete return to the pre-war system of unrestricted buying and selling.

During the war it was natural to share out the available food-stuffs equally among the people, and immediately after the war world shortages, combined with the moral obligation to feed the victims of the war, gave us no option but to continue the rationing system.

In recent years, however, most food shortages have disappeared

and of some foods there has even been a surplus. The British rationing system has recognised this changed situation and some valuable foods have been taken off the ration, although not to the extent most people appear to desire. Then again, the sweet ration has been greatly increased, and indigo is now a most liberal one.

On the other hand, the rations of fats, meat, cheese, sugar, and tea are still small; and it is little wonder that people are bewildered by continuing restriction.

## Cost-of-living index

The reasons are not easy to understand, but they are closely connected with the effort to keep the cost of living down. Rationed goods are an important part of the cost-of-living index upon which many wage rates in industry depend. If the index goes up wages automatically follow, causing in turn an inflationary movement.

In an attempt to prevent this the Government pay some £400,000,000 a year to the producers of rationed goods at home and abroad. This sum represents the difference between the price they receive from the British public and the price they actually demand, and is called a subsidy. That is the main reason why the Government wish to keep a strict control on those goods which enjoy a subsidy.

## Argentine agreement

There has been much controversy recently over our failure to come to an agreement with the Argentine for the supply of meat, as a result of which our stocks have seriously dwindled. Agreement has now been reached, although unfortunately we have to pay some 20 per cent more than last year's price.

New Zealand and Danish suppliers, too, have received higher prices for their butter and cheese, and it is likely that we shall also have to pay more for Canadian dairy produce. The extra cost of these price increases will be about eightpence on each ration book a week, or £85,000,000 a year for the nation.

## Unrationed foods

Nor is the position eased by those unrationed foods of which there is now an abundance. There are good supplies of ham, all kinds of sausages, luncheon meats, and cheeses. But the prices of most of these goods are high, and again the burden falls on the housewife, who finds it increasingly difficult to keep within her weekly budget.

The lesson of recent months, therefore, would seem to be that whether we ration our food or not we must in the long run be governed by the level of international prices. But whether the Government or the private trader is the best arbiter of what those prices should be is another question.

## BUSH DOCTOR IN TOWN

A **CHEERFUL** Nigerian came to London recently to receive a knighthood from the King. He is Sir Francis Ibiham, a bush doctor of the new kind.

Francis Ibiham was born nearly 50 years ago in the Calabar-area of Africa's west coast. He came to Britain for his medical training, and in 1935 went back home to the bush. With hack-saw and chopper he cleared a spot for a new hospital at Abiriba near his own home, and started a dispensary. Gradually he won the people's confidence.

While Sir Francis is in London he will brush up his medical knowledge. Later he will go home again to tend his patients in the bush, and to serve Nigeria in the coming Parliament of her people.

In talking with him, a **CN** correspondent realised that he had caught a glimpse of the new Africa which is fast developing.

## Older and better

A **NEWLY-PUBLISHED** survey of the United Kingdom shows that far more people are living to a ripe old age. In 1871, out of a population of more than 27 million there were only some 30,000 aged 85 and over. In 1949, out of a population that had barely doubled, five times as many people were living beyond 85.

The same survey tells us that there has been a great decrease in drunkenness; the 204,138 prosecutions in 1913 were reduced to 34,701 in 1949.

## Bounty Islands

Continued from page 1

from the numbers of the seal population, the Bounties are exactly the same now as they were when first sighted by Europeans. Every year the mollymawks arrive in August, and hordes of big crested penguins in August and September. They leave in the following autumn" (spring in the northern hemisphere) "and the winter rains wash away the tons of guano they deposited during the summer, so that the rock is quite bare when the next breeding season comes round."

The value of the Bounties for scientists is in the way they show the preservation of the natural balance of life when there is no interference by man.

## GREAT FESTIVAL OF SPORT

**THREE** hundred picked athletes will take part this week-end in a Festival of Sport organised by the Central Council of Physical Recreation as its contribution to the Festival of Britain.

The Festival will be at the Empire Pool, Wembley, and all proceeds will go to the National Sports Development Fund.

Football and cricket, boxing, track events, volley ball, formation ball-room dancing and Scottish country dancing will be on the programme. Skating champion Jeannette Altwegg will take part in a display of padder tennis, and Leary Constantine and Barnett, who used to keep wicket for Australia, will give an exhibition of indoor cricket as "a bit of fun."

June Foulds will compete in a sixty yards' "dash" and Maureen Gardner in a sixty-metre hurdle event; and schoolboys from various parts of England will compete in inter-county schools athletic events.

Thirty "London Scots," led by a piper, will dance the rarely-performed "thirty-twosome reel" and other country dances under the auspices of the Scottish Dance Society.

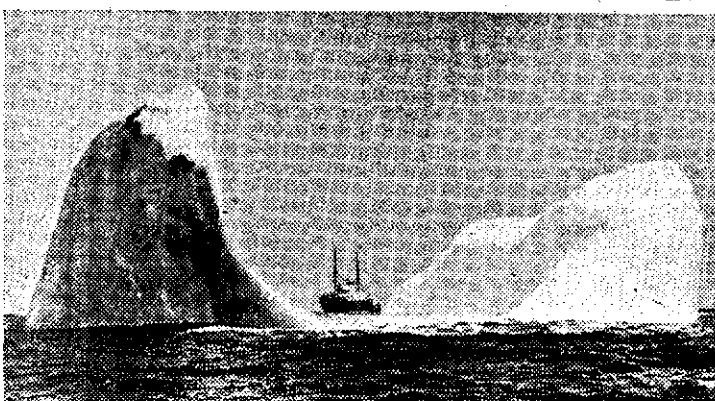
## Crab and Winkle line to close

**THE** Kelvedon and Tollesbury Light Railway, known to railway enthusiasts as The Crab and Winkle line, is closing down.

Constructed in 1903, the 8½-mile single-line track runs through the heart of the Essex countryside. It was intended to provide an outlet for farm produce, and also to attract yachtsmen to Tollesbury, on the River Blackwater, where a pier was built. But the project failed to attract, and the pier lies derelict.

The coming of motor-buses withdrew support from the railway, which has recently only operated two trains a day in each direction, as far as Tollesbury.

The trains are "mixed" goods wagons and passenger coaches, and the guard swings himself from coach to coach while the train is in motion, collecting fares and punching tickets with a bell punch. When the train comes to a level crossing the fireman jumps down to open the gates, and the guard jumps down to close them—and all this happens within 50 miles of London.



## On watch in the Atlantic

Huge icebergs dwarf the 213-foot tug *Acushnet* of the International Ice Patrol. Planes and ships of the Patrol are now keeping constant watch on the icebergs and passing on information about their position to ships in the Atlantic.

## NEWS FROM EVERYWHERE

### IN THE BAG

Sewing-machines small enough to fit comfortably into ladies' handbags are now being produced in Germany.

Interpreters at the various Festival of Britain celebrations this summer will wear coloured badges to denote the language they speak—French pale blue, German green, Italian pink, and Spanish amber.

York Minster's north transept ceiling—ravaged by the death-watch beetle—has now been restored, and the city's Lord Mayor recently drove in the last nail to complete a task started in 1935.

Concerts by the London Philharmonic Orchestra will be given for London secondary school pupils during the summer term at Lewisham, Tooting, and Bermondsey.

### Three-mile rope

A wire rope three miles long and weighing 23 tons has been made at Rotherham, Yorks, for the National Coal Board.

Nearly 500 awards gained by sportsmen and sportswomen in 60 different sports are on view at the National Sporting Trophies Exhibition at Hutchinson House, Stratford Place, London. Among them is the Football Association Cup, lent by Newcastle United.

A 6½-ton propeller shaft urgently required by a liner was flown in a York freighter from London Airport to Alexandria.

Eighty gallons of sea water are to be sent each week from Devon to Manchester to keep alive an octopus in Belle Vue Zoo.

### BEE FLIES 5000 MILES

A queen bee was flown 5000 miles from London to Bombay to replace one that died in the apiary of Mr S. R. Noolgabkar. The fare was £1.

Scientists from 20 countries will meet at Oxford in July to discuss peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Fourteen-year-old Alan Hodson saved a terror-stricken horse from a blazing stable at the Royal Liberty School, Gidea Park, Essex.

Brightlingsea shipwrights are converting an ex-Admiralty motor vessel into a replica of the sailing ship on the reverse side of a halfpenny. It will sail in due course to the South Bank Exhibition.

### He struck gold

For finding two gold and silver torcs, or necklets, said to be 2000 years old, while ploughing near Hunstanton, Norfolk, Tom Rout, a tractor driver, has received a cheque for £1350 from the British Museum.

The first shipment of meat from Argentina under the new trade agreement is due in London on May 21.

When entries for the Boy Scouts' Soap-box Derby closed on April 30 it was found that the number received exceeded 400, compared with 180 last year. English and Scottish semi-finals take place during the summer months, with the finals at Scarborough on September 15.

### All-rounder

At 21 years of age Peter Davison has just been made stationmaster at Cole Green, Hertfordshire, where eight trains a day are dealt with. Peter also acts as booking clerk, porter, and ticket collector. He is, in fact, the staff.

### STARTING IN NEXT WEEK'S CN

A new picture version of the Merry Pranks of Til Eulenspiegel, the famous rascal of German folklore.

The discovery at Jericho of the largest ancient palace yet found in Palestine is announced by Professor James B. Richard, of the American School of Oriental Research. He thinks it was built before the birth of Christ.

### PANEFUL OPERATION

During the Bob-a-job week some Marlow Scouts moved a greenhouse fifty yards without breaking a single pane.

To encourage interest in technical education the London Master Builders' Association is setting up a trust fund of £1000 and is allocating an extra £500 a year for prizes to apprentices attending London schools of building.

Chicago taxidermists have reconstructed the body of Bushman, the Lincoln Park gorilla who died last January. It will be shown in the same zoo where he was once a star attraction.

Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra has placed itself under the control of the local civic authority by accepting an offer of a £10,000 interest-free loan from the city corporation.

Eight British and four Dutch shipyards are to build oil-tankers for the Shell Company—an order worth about £45,000,000. Five special tankers of 23,000 tons each and 41 general-purpose 18,000-ton tankers are to be laid down.

The Ford Foundation in America has established a fund for adult education "as a further step towards meeting its obligations in the field of education."

### RESOURCEFUL

A home-made fishing rod was used by Mr Edwin Kidd to rescue Joseph Forster, aged eight, from the lake in Barnes Park, Sunderland.

The Geneva Conservatoire of Music has produced a French translation of Benjamin Britten's *Let's Make an Opera*.



The Children's Newspaper, May 12, 1951

## KING'S GIFT TO AMERICA

CRAFTSMEN in London are making by hand a silver cross and a pair of silver candlesticks for the King to present to Washington Cathedral, the Church of American Protestant Episcopalians.

Washington's great Cathedral, modelled on Canterbury Cathedral, is a comparatively modern building, erected after the First World War. The Episcopal Church, lineal descendant in the United States of the Church of England, began its separate existence in 1789.

The cross and candlesticks will be dedicated at the Service in St Paul's Cathedral, London, on July 4, which is to be attended by the King and Queen, and at which General Eisenhower is to give to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's a roll of honour of Americans who lost their lives in the war and are buried in Britain.

Thus will be forged another link between the Americans and ourselves.

## STAMP NEWS

ITALY has issued a stamp to mark this year's Turin International Car Salon. It shows a typical car of the meeting, and many national flags.

THE textile industry is honoured by France's latest stamp.

SWITZERLAND plans to celebrate her National Fête with five special stamps in June.

EASTERN Germany recently issued two stamps commemorating the Leipzig Spring Fair.

MR MACKENZIE KING and Sir Robert Borden are to be commemorated by special Canadian stamps.

## HULL AND PARIS LINKED

A NEW shipping service takes goods from Hull right to the heart of Paris, thus providing Yorkshire exporters with a quick through-route.

The voyage takes two and a half days, 36 hours of which are along the River Seine, where only daylight sailing is allowed. In the first trip the motor-ship *Fakir* carried wool textiles, chemicals two mechanical grabs, and a 20-ton drill.

## GEESE AND SWANS ARE RIVALS

EVERY spring visitors to the Figgate Pond at Portobello, near Edinburgh, have watched a battle royal between swans and Chinese geese for possession of a small island. Both sets of birds use the island as a nesting-place, but the swans, when the goslings are hatched, have always refused to allow them on the water.

This year the park attendants have tried to find an amicable solution by dividing the island into two separate compartments. Straw has been placed in each division for nesting; but it remains to be seen whether the swans and the geese will rear their respective families in peace.

## AS SHAKESPEARE INTENDED

THE Shakespeare Stage Society has been formed to encourage the performance of his plays "in the manner intended by the author," and the first of its productions will be *Macbeth*, which without any cuts, will be performed on an open platform stage in a Tudor building (Crosby Hall, Chelsea) during Whitsun week.



### The world's time

This new sundial in Frankfurt, Germany, shows local times, Central European times, all Zone times, and the local times of many cities all over the world.

## SCULPTURE IN THE PARK

BRITAIN'S second open-air sculpture exhibition, which is now open in Battersea Park, promises to be one of the most important artistic events of the Festival year.

It is an international exhibition and includes the works of leading British and overseas sculptors of the last 50 years, as well as works by artists from some ten other countries.

The figures—in stone, glazed ceramic, concrete, iron, welded steel, bronze, and wood—are seen to their best advantage amid lawns, trees, and flowers, with the ever-changing effect of sunlight and shadow on them.

Guide lecturers will be available in the grounds to conduct visitors round the exhibition, which will remain open until the middle of September. Admission is one shilling, half-price for boys and girls under 16, and for art students.

## COAL IN WHITE SACKS

A LORRY-LOAD of snow-white sacks of coal caused quite a stir in a London suburb the other day. They were made of nylon, which is now industry's Jack of all trades, and has proved ideal for sacks. It is stronger than ordinary canvas, lasts far longer, and can be washed perfectly clean with a hosepipe.

## ANTI-JACOBITE LAWS REMAIN

IF an Episcopal minister in Scotland does not offer a prayer for the Royal family at every service he is liable to be either fined or suspended. This was revealed at a recent meeting of the Episcopal Church, held in Edinburgh.

The reason is that a number of anti-Jacobite laws, passed after the '45 Rebellion, have by some oversight never been repealed. One law, passed under George the Third, lays it down that "every pastor or minister shall, as often as he shall officiate at some time during the exercise of the Divine Service, pray for the King's Most Excellent Majesty by name, for his Majesty's heirs or successors, and for all the Royal family."

Members of congregations are also liable to penalties.

## ARROWS FOR EXPORT

TWO business men from Wolverhampton were practising archery in their spare time when it occurred to them that the manufacture of arrows might be a useful sideline for their factory.

As a result, aluminium alloy arrows are being made on quite a large scale for export.

## FIDDLER'S DELIGHT

From a Canadian Correspondent

MRS MCPHERSON, aged 86, of Dutton, Ontario, has 80 years of fiddling to her credit, and still enters fiddlers' contests in the outlying districts. At the Middlesex Seed Fair in March she was the oldest contestant and was a bit annoyed when she was only placed fourth.

The fiddler still provides the music for square dancing in the remoter northern parts of Ontario and Manitoba. Many of the old melodies and songs have been handed down from generation to generation from the songs brought by early settlers.

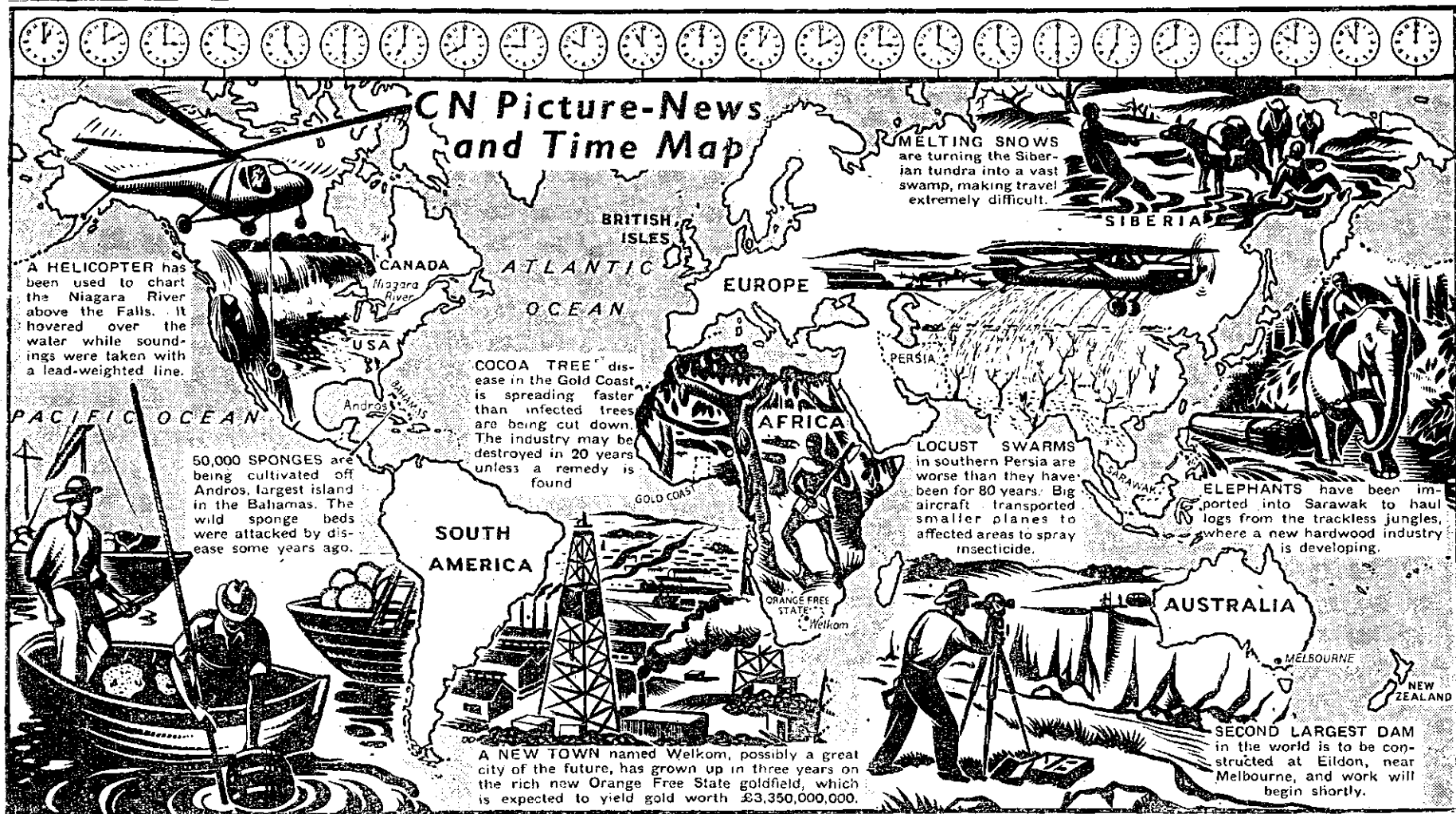
Some of the airs played in the Moose Factory area on James Bay can be recognised as Scottish in origin, brought there by the early Hudson Bay Factors, who were generally Scottish. The old Scottish songs brought by these men and their families have during the ensuing years become "mixed" with Indian melodies.

## TWEED VILLAGE

A STRIKING exhibit at the British Industries Fair this month will be a complete model village made entirely from Harris tweed.

The builder of the model, Mr J. P. Newall, of Stornoway, is not only a producer of Harris tweed; he is also a zealous experimenter in town-planning. Some time ago he found that he could best illustrate his ideas by using his own tweed for materials in his model village.

The model measures three feet by five and is composed of every known shade of tweed. It has houses, roads, fields, streams, and an island, all in contrasting colours, while the telegraph wires are made of the most delicate yarn.





4  
CRAVEN HILL WRITES FROM THE LONDON ZOO...

## Jack peeps round the corner

ONE of the oddest birds now in the London Zoo is Round-the-corner Jack, a handsome Savigny's eagle-owl who lives indoors at the tropical bird house.

Jack gets his nickname from the fact that he is always viewing visitors "round the corner." He has a perch stretching across the whole cage, but never occupies the middle of it. Instead, he edges up to one end, half-hidden from the public by a protruding section of the woodwork, and peers solemnly at passers-by round one corner of it.

"Round-the-corner Jack has always had this queer habit," a Zoo official told me, "since he was given to us two years ago by Mr J. C. Mavrogordato, of the legal department of the Sudan Government, who had previously kept the owl as a pet. What causes Jack to behave in this way we don't know; perhaps it is just shyness. But it certainly gives visitors a good laugh."

IN an attempt to teach children how to recognise that menace to our potato crops, the Colorado beetle, the Zoo is adopting novel methods. Some thousands of Colorado beetles have been preserved and mounted in little squares of transparent polythene, and they will be sold at the Zoo shop this summer.

"We expect a brisk demand for these," said Mr G. R. Doubleday, the menagerie's public relations officer. "The benefits should be two-fold; not only will children learn to recognise the beetle at sight, but thousands of beneficial insects will be saved from extermination. At present, large numbers—ladybirds, especially—are being killed off by young people in the mistaken belief that they are Colorado beetles."

"To launch this scheme we obtained examples of the Colorado which were first put in formalin. Then they are set

by experts and placed in these one-inch-square containers, so that they can be carried in the pocket. Supplies are available now and will be greatly increased during the next month or two."

FOUR new chairs and a table have been made of Indian teak for Compo, Sally, Susan, and So-so, the famous Chimps' Tea Party quartet. Not only have the chimpanzees outgrown the furniture used last year, but they also damaged it beyond repair.

The chairs have to be higher than ordinary ones because the chimpanzees, when seated at table, curl up on their seats.

Each animal was measured for a chair, which will have the occupant's name painted on the back of it.

SADLY missed from the collection will be Joey, the six-foot-tall Indian Sarus crane, who has just died of old age.

Joey joined the Zoo in 1946 and soon became popular, partly owing to his exceptional tameness and partly on account of a self-taught trick with which he amused countless visitors.

When not engaged in titbit collecting, Joey would occupy his time by picking up in his beak bits of turf, tossing them in the air, and trying to kick them as they fell. Sometimes the old footballer-crane would practise this trick for half an hour at a time. Practice, however, did little to improve his aim, and he missed the "ball" as often as not!

Joey's tameness was so remarkable that on each occasion when he escaped from his paddock—and he got out several times—Mr Hexter, the head-keeper, always led the fugitive home on foot. It was a sight which caused many laughs, for Joey and his keeper were about the same height.

## SIGHT ON FOUR LEGS

SURELY the most wonderful dogs in the world are those trained to lead blind people. A second centre for training these dogs and their future owners—for the two must be trained as one—has been opened at Exwick, near Exeter, by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Limited.

The first centre is at Edmons-cote Manor, near Leamington. The new centre has trained its first dog, Dreana, which has been given to an Australian.

An astonishing thing it is to see one of these dogs at work. What at first appears to be a man leading a dog along a crowded city pavement, quite naturally avoiding other passers-by, turns out to be the dog leading the man.

During the war a dog named Fly, a Border collie, led his master day after day for nearly six years in Liverpool's dockland, where his business lay. The collie led the blind man safely past bomb-holes, wreckage, and obstacles of all kinds.

### Travelled 40,000 miles

Fly had replaced another dog, an Alsatian named Bella, who had died after serving the same master for seven years. During that time Bella had travelled with him well over 40,000 miles.

"We gallivanted the length of the country," he wrote of Bella. "London, Brighton, York, Skipton, the North Wales coast—these were but a few of the places we visited."

For these marvellous dogs can take their owners by train. No wonder a blind man once said of his friend, "My sight is on four legs!"

Such unerring skill is the result of careful training, and it costs £180 to train owner and dog. The future owner stays at the centre for about three weeks, learning to co-operate with his "sight on four legs." He has complete faith in his guide, and can say with St Paul, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

There are 350 blind people waiting for dogs, and this number will increase as more blind people hear of what the dogs can do. The Association, whose address is 81 Piccadilly, London, W 1, needs financial help to carry on its splendid work.

## RIVER DIVERTED

A DIVERSION of the River Noe, Derbyshire, which has taken 4½ years to complete, and has cost £300,000, has added 4,500,000 gallons of water to the daily supplies of Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham, and Leicester.

The water runs for more than a mile and a half along an aqueduct and tunnel through the 1500-foot ridge dividing the Edale and Ashop valleys before it enters Ladybower reservoir.

## Surrey Songsters

EFFORTS are being made in Surrey to form a girls' choir of about one hundred voices on the lines of the famous Luton Girls' Choir. The scheme has its origin in Sutton and is sponsored by the Sutton Evening Institute. Thirty-six girls aged between 16 and 23 have already been enrolled and they will sing together as the Surrey Girls' Choir.

## Royal visitors from Denmark

KING FREDERIK and Queen Ingrid of Denmark are in London this week on a four-day State visit. They are being entertained by our King and Queen at Buckingham Palace, and the whole nation will acclaim them, echoing the sentiment expressed by Tennyson in the lines which as Poet Laureate he wrote in 1863 to welcome Queen Alexandra to this country:

*Saxon and Norman and Dane are we,  
But all of us Danes in our welcome to thee.*

King Frederik, who succeeded his father to the throne in 1947, is a great-nephew of Queen Alexandra, our own King's grandmother. Queen Ingrid is also related to the Royal Family, for her mother, who married the Crown Prince of Sweden, was a great-grandchild of Queen Victoria.

King Frederik is known in Denmark as the Sailor King. Imbued with a natural love of the sea, he was brought up in the navy, and most of his intimate friends are either sea captains or naval officers.

As a young man, King Frederik was very keen on rowing. He was a member of a well-known club, and could often be seen at sculling practice. But his great hobby is music. He even has a grand piano on his yacht.

At the age of sixteen he already ran an orchestra, and to-day he sometimes conducts the Royal Theatre Orchestra. On these occasions, of course, no unauthorised person is allowed to enter the theatre. Records have, however, been made of some of these performances, which are sold for charity. Once the King conducted at a concert given by Danish Boy Scouts.

King Frederik is a great cyclist. During the war he and the Queen used to cycle everywhere, instead of using a car. Sometimes they took the little Princess Margrethe along, too—



King Frederik and Queen Ingrid with their daughters, Margrethe, Anne-Marie, and Benedikte

in a carrier fixed to the front of her father's bicycle.

Their Majesties' three daughters are the Princesses Margrethe, aged 11, Benedikte, aged seven, and Anne-Marie, aged four. They have an English governess, but Margrethe goes to an ordinary girls' school in Copenhagen. They all like riding and have their own ponies.

The present heir to the throne is Prince Knud, the King's brother. According to Danish law, a woman cannot ascend the throne. But there is a movement afoot to have the law amended, for the Danish people hope one day to have Margrethe as their Queen.

During the winter the Royal Family live in one of the buildings forming part of the Amalienborg Palace, in Copenhagen. Easter and summer holidays are spent at one or other of their castles or shooting lodges in the country.

## SEEKING THE AMAZON'S SOURCE

TWO young Englishmen are travelling by air, mule, horse, motor-boat, and canoe to discover the true source of the world's greatest river, the Amazon.

Ever since the Amazon was discovered in 1500 by Pinzon, the Spanish explorer, there has been doubt about the exact spot where the 4000-mile river rises. It is somewhere on the vast plateau between the Andes and the Pacific.

The two young men, John Brown and Sebastian Snow, will first make an aerial survey of the huge glaciers which send a continuous supply of water down to the plateau—water which the Amazon eventually collects.

As the river moves down from the mountains they will check its flow with floats on the surface. Soundings will be taken from boats, and current meters will measure the speed exactly. This will give the clue to the tributary which produces most water, and

is the most likely to come from the source.

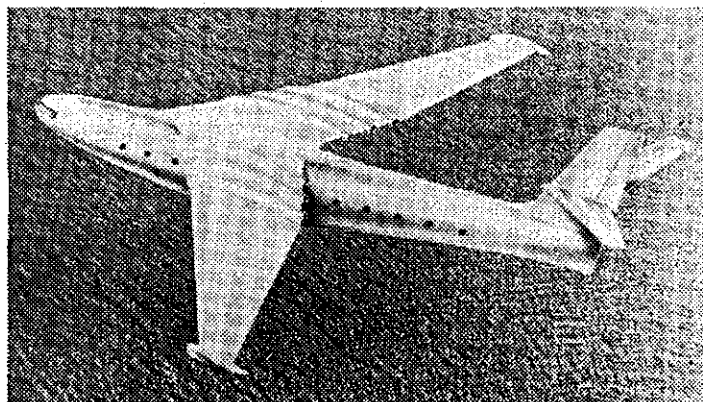
Weather stations are also to be set up in the Andes to observe wind, frost, rain, and snow, all of which help in forming a scientific judgment.

Tracking down the Amazon, however, will not be done entirely by calculation and deduction. The two adventurers are preparing to overcome the obstacles of the Amazon basin which all explorers have had to face. Electric eels, sting rays, alligators, anacondas, insects, and rodents of every kind and of enormous size are expected on the way to the Amazon's secret source.

The great river is very deep, and even 2300 miles from the Atlantic it is more than ten fathoms deep.

A large number of people volunteered to go with Mr Brown and Mr Snow. Most of them were ex-Servicemen, and six were boys of 16.

## New planes for the world's airways



14. The Duchess

ONE of our earliest aircraft-designers liked to describe his flying-boats as "not planes that float but ships that fly."

The giant Princess, a true ship of the skies, is to be used only as a troop transport, but a shining future lies ahead for its beautiful swept-wing sister-craft, the Saunders-Roe Duchess. Tasman Empire Airways are already considering this high-speed airliner for their service between Australia and New Zealand.

Constructed of metal and

weighing 65 tons, the Duchess has six De Havilland Ghost turbines—jet-engines similar to those on the Comet. It will climb to 30,000 feet in 15 minutes and cruise above the weather at 500 m.p.h.

Span of the Duchess is 135 feet and the hull is 124 feet long.

The hull is divided into two saloons which will seat 74 passengers. There will be a crew of six, including a steward and hostess.

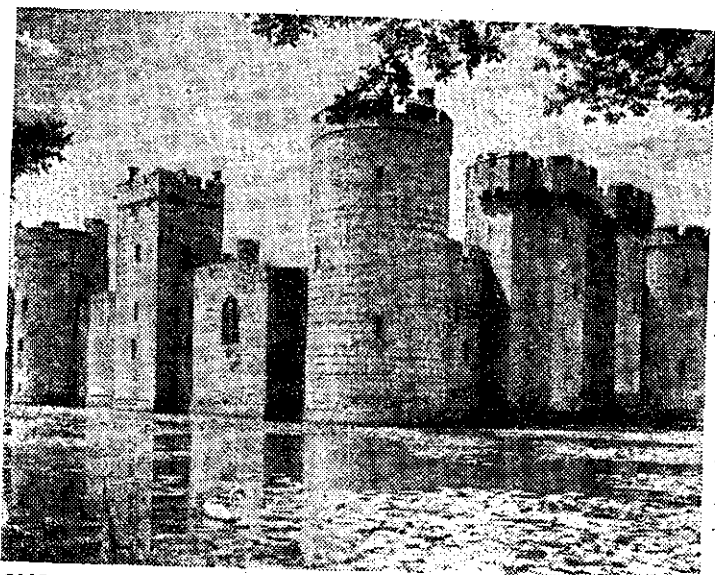
Retractable wing-tip floats will give the machine additional stability on the water



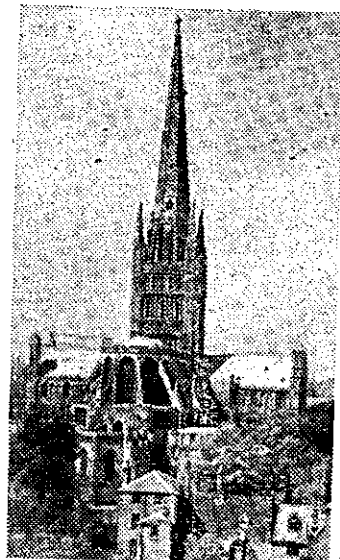
The Children's Newspaper, May 12, 1951

# Now is the time of Festival in Britain

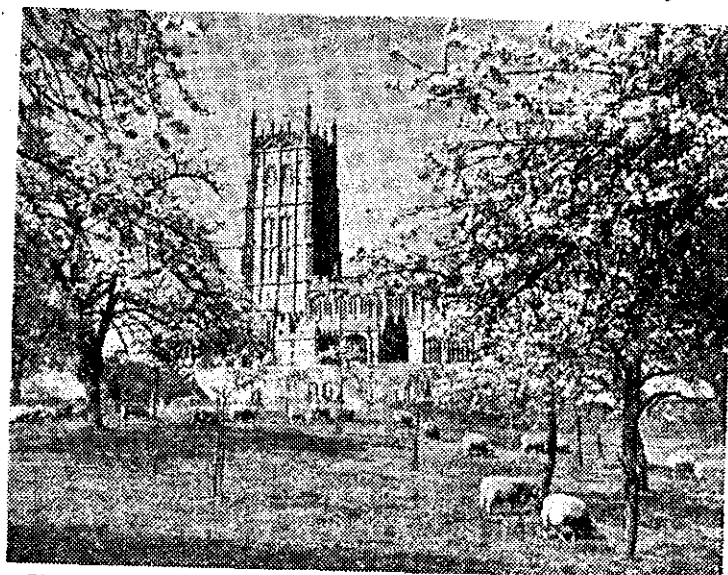
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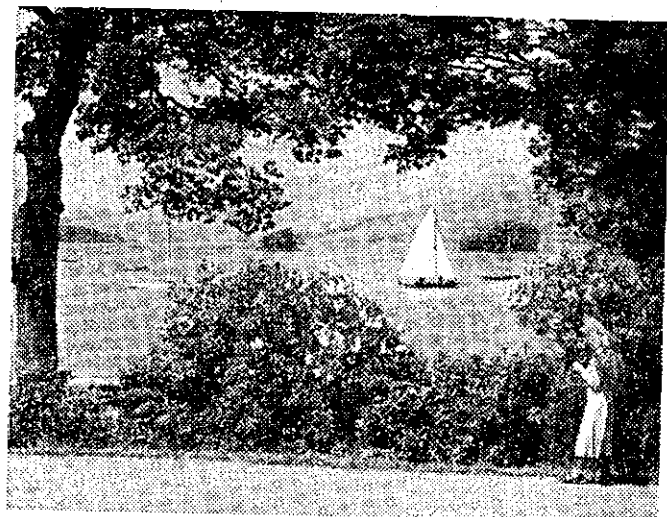
**SUSSEX FORTRESS**—The battlemented walls of Bodiam Castle



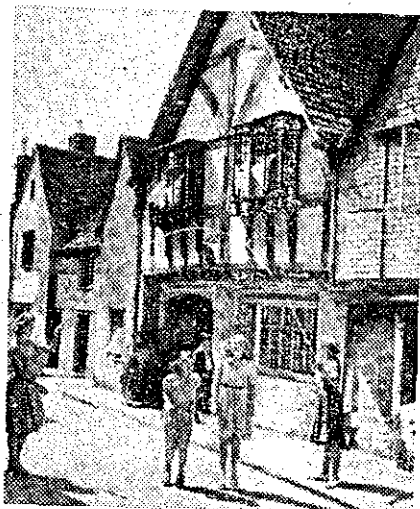
**THE CROWN OF NORWICH**



**GLOUCESTER GLORY**—Blossom-time at Chipping Campden



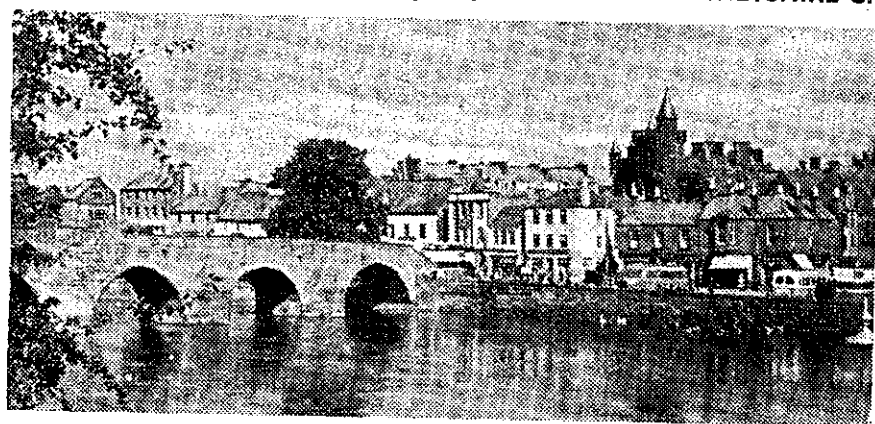
**LAKELAND DELIGHT**—A glimpse of Windermere



**WILTSHIRE CHARM**—In lovely Lacock



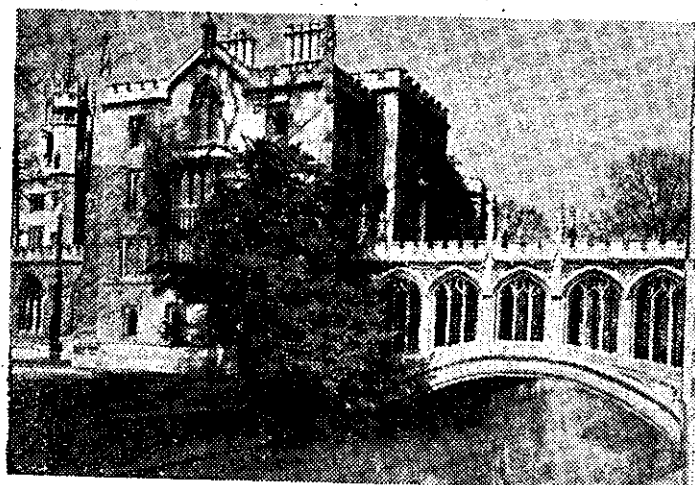
**SHAKESPEARE COUNTRY**—Exhall, in Warwickshire



**ROYAL BURGH**—Dumfries, one of Scotland's Festival Centres



**WELSH MOUNTAINS**—The Cader Idris range, near Barmouth



**ONE OF THE GREAT SIGHTS OF CAMBRIDGE**  
The Bridge of Sighs, St John's College



**STATELY TOWER**  
Huish Episcopi, Somerset



**ONE OF ENGLAND'S MOST FAMOUS STREETS**  
The High, Oxford, with the Spire of St Mary's Church

Most of these photographs are taken from that admirable series of country guides—The King's England, published by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton.



# Children's Newspaper

John Carpenter House  
Whitefriars · London · EC4

MAY 12 . . . . . 1951

## VENTURERS ALL

WITH the coming of fine weather the urge to be out and about infects everyone who has a spark of adventure.

On another page we tell of two young men off to discover the sources of the Amazon. Only the other day we were reading of another group chartering a motor-launch to discover the buried booty of Captain Kidd in the China Seas. And in last week's CN we told of Stanley Smith, who was about to set off to cross the Atlantic in a 20-foot yawl.

DANGER never prevents the adventurer from setting out. That, indeed, is the magnet which draws him. To attempt the impossible, even though it may mean glorious failure, is part of the fascination of living. While Everest is still unclimbed there will always be those who want to attempt it. To go boldly forth to meet a challenge—that is the spirit of the true adventurer.

Not all of us can scale the mountains or sail the seas. But most of us are adventurers at heart, and so this summer our roads and hilltops and moors will be thronged with explorers, eager for new sights and fresh horizons. To travel on, to find what is round the corner or over the crest of the hill—that is the ever-present urge that makes us venturers all.

## TEAM WORK

By mutual confidence and mutual aid  
Great deeds are done and great discoveries made.

Alexander Pope



## Under the Editor's Table

PETER PUCK  
WANTS TO  
KNOW

If hikers indulge  
in rambling talk

A MAN made his fortune out of sacks. Now he can put it in them.

WE live in times of change. But with little change in our pockets.

## BILLY BEETLE



# The Editor's Table

## Cheaper and better schools

IT is encouraging in these times to hear of something that is getting cheaper—especially when it is new schools. The Minister of Education said recently that our school buildings are among the few things that will be cheaper this year than in 1950 because we are getting better value for the money spent on them.

Last year they cost less than in 1949. Primary schools cost £158 per place as against £195 in 1949, and the average secondary school costs were reduced from £320 to £272 per place. These savings, said Mr Tomlinson, were made without reducing the number of school places, and without loss of quality. For the 1951 programme the costs are to be 12½ per cent lower again.

Cheaper and better schools is a development that promises well for the future.

## IS IT WRONG FOR US TO GAMBLE?

THERE will always be a great number of people in this country who believe that gambling in any form is wrong, however much others may find to say in its favour.

Now that the Royal Commission on Gambling has made its report the debate breaks out again; for the Commission tends to argue that the ill effects of gambling are exaggerated, and that gambling in moderation does no harm.

A tendency to gamble may be ingrained in human nature; so is a tendency to selfishness but no one would try to condone it. The great moral issue of gambling is that it is an attempt to gain money at someone else's expense; and, whatever policy the State may adopt as a matter of expediency, all right-thinking people agree that the gambling habit should not be encouraged among young people.

## THIS BLESSED PLOT

LORD SAMUEL said recently that if Shakespeare revisited Stratford, some things might astonish and even shock him. But he would be pleased to find Stratford the very heart of an England internally at peace, a land of ordered liberty with neither tyranny nor anarchy but a King and Parliament; an England energetic, adventurous, resolute.

## Going to rain?



Winifred, the South African bush baby at the London Zoo, looks out from her straw-filled box to see what the weather is like

## NOT ONLY LONDON

A REMINDER that the Festival is an all-British display came recently from its Director-General, Mr Gerald Barry, who said:

"I hope there will not be a one-way traffic to London during the Festival. We hear a lot here about the South Bank Exhibition, but the success of the Festival really depends on the great events taking place elsewhere. London is not the only place. The Festival is an opportunity to bring out the richness and tradition of our big cities, villages, and regions which are so much a part of our national life."

He pointed out that Liverpool, for example, is to have the biggest of the 23 arts festivals in the country. Liverpool is raising £25,000 by public subscription and the corporation is to double the amount thus obtained. The city will stage what will probably be the greatest fireworks show ever seen in Britain.

## Youth sets a fine example

YOUNG people from different countries are going to Alpine valleys to help to repair the damage caused by avalanches last winter. They will rebuild roads and houses.

This is another example of the splendid kind of work with rolled-up sleeves done by these young men and women of the International Voluntary Work Camps, who helped to restore the Landes region of France after it had been devastated by forest fires.

The decision to help in the Alpine valleys was taken at a recent Unesco conference in Paris which was attended by representatives of 35 organisations.

## Whitsun customs old and new

EACH season of the year has its curious customs, some with origins lost in antiquity, others of comparatively recent times. Here are three Whitsun customs, two of long standing, the other a mere quarter of a century old.

THE comparative newcomer concerns the diocese of Oxford, where children of the parishes are asked to collect as many farthings as they can between Easter and Whitsun. At Whitsun, usually on Whit-Tuesday, every parish sends two or three children to the Cathedral at Oxford, to hand the money over to the Bishop of Oxford at a special service.

The money is used to assist churches in new housing areas, to help to repair old churches, and to aid the deaf and dumb. The scheme, only one of its kind in the country, last year raised over £1200.

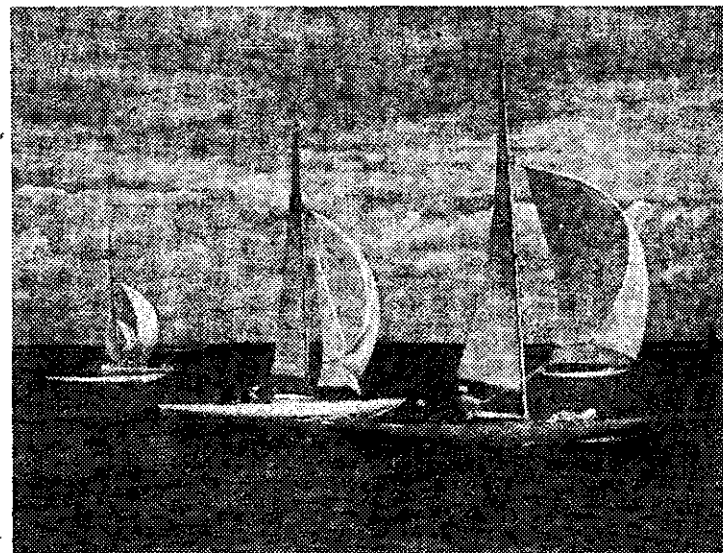
At Cooper's Hill, near Gloucester, a curious Whitsun-tide custom is the cheese-rolling race. Huge "cheeses"—wooden discs—are bowled down the steep grassy slope by men and youths, prizes being awarded to those who catch them. As the discs travel at a great pace the race can be very exciting.

The object of this 500-year-old custom, said to have originated in feudal days, is to preserve the rights of the villagers to graze sheep and cattle on the hill.

ON Whit-Sunday a quaint old custom is still observed at the village of St Briavels, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, after evening service, when cubes of bread and cheese are distributed to the congregation. This ancient custom is to mark the 750-year-old rights of the villagers to cut timber in an enclosure known as the Hudnalls.

## JUST AN IDEA

As Jeffery Farnol wrote: As for this divine gift of Simpleness of Heart, who shall say it is not the best of all?



## OUR HOMELAND

Yacht-racing off Cowes, Isle of Wight

## THINGS SAID

THE seed of household science takes a long time to mature, and it can only be expected that the addiction to tinned foods will disappear gradually in the course of the next two generations.

Lord Eustace Percy

A SHILLING is a pound with the tax taken off. Bob Hope

I REGARD perms not as a luxury but as a necessity.

Mrs Freda Corbet, MP

BRITAIN and the United States need each other far more today than at any time in their history.

Mr Lewis Douglas, former U.S. Ambassador to London

At the end of the day we are all in the same boat, whatever our political views may be. The boat is our country which we love.

Sir Hartley Shawcross

## Blessed nations

HAPPY are all free peoples, too strong to be dispossessed; But blessed are those among nations who dare to be strong for the rest.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

## IN THE COUNTRY

MAY is a wonderful month in the country. To the charm of rose-flushed orchard blossom is added the fragrant creamy-pink of the hawthorn, the purple of lilac, and a hundred other gay blooms. In the bright sunshine of a perfect May day the landscape almost sparkles. Nature has adorned herself with an exquisite bridal-veil to celebrate "spring's wedding with summer."

Now wonders multiply and "miracles" happen hourly; on walks afield new delights are constantly revealed. The meadows are agog with wild life in many varied forms; every bush and green-laced thicket and bramble is occupied by feathered songsters, for this is the heyday of the warblers and pipits.

The cuckoo's "two old notes" echo from the greeny wood, for "In May he sings all day"—and often in the sweet-scented dusk as well.



## Kabbarli—friend of the Blackfellows

SOME years before the war a traveller in the wilds of Australia might have been astonished to meet an elderly white woman, dressed in the style of the '90's and carrying on her back a blind insane old native. The traveller would have been meeting Mrs Daisy Bates carrying back one of her patients who had strayed from her camp for sick Aborigines, or Blackfellows.

This great-hearted woman, as the C.N. recorded last week, has gone to her well-earned rest at the age of 90, leaving behind her an unsurpassed record of self-sacrificing work for humanity and science.

She went to Australia last century as a beautiful young Irishwoman, and was one of the first to realise that the Aborigines, the most primitive people in the world, could never adjust

the "doctor of old-time witchcrafts."

She sat with the dying. One of these, a woman, holding Daisy's hand, asked fearfully, "Where am I going?" Daisy replied: "My Father is sitting down where you are going, Jeera, and as soon as I let go of your hand, my Father will catch hold of it. He will take care of you until I come."

"Your father, Kabbarli?" said



An early photograph of Mrs Daisy Bates sitting with two young aborigines in her tent in the Australian Bush; and (right) a picture of her in characteristic costume, taken a few years ago while she was on a visit to Adelaide



themselves to European civilisation, and so were doomed to extinction. She made it her life's work to try to help them and to find out as much as possible about their customs.

Living among them was at best a grim and hazardous experience. These simple-minded Stone Age people in their wild state roam naked over the plains and through the bush, sleeping in the roughest shelters made of boughs, eating snakes, lizards, frogs, fat grubs, roots, berries, edible grasses, kangaroos, and emus.

Daisy Bates came to love them—and they loved her. She looked on them and treated them as her children, and a kindly gentle mother to them she was. She gained their confidence because they became convinced that she was a magic woman—a sort of re-incarnation of an ancient grandmother spirit, Kabbarli. She was admitted to secret ceremonies which their own women were forbidden to see. She concentrated on tending their sick, and gained the reputation of being

the woman. "Then I shall be safe."

Daisy loved the Aborigine children and taught them, in their own language. Here we go round the Mulberry bush: Ngan-nana boggada yangula nyinninyi.

Often there was danger. Once, when making tea near her tent, she noticed a movement in the scrub and saw a number of armed men, all decorated, stealthily approaching.

"Come on, boggali! (grandchildren)" she called to the marauders. "Come to the fire. You must be cold!"

First a few came sheepishly, then the others. While she gave them tea and food she chatted to them, and then they went peacefully away.

A hard life was Kabbarli's, but she would not leave it. In times to come when, perhaps, there are no wild Blackfellows left, students will treasure the knowledge she has recorded of these people who have changed so little since the dawn of human history.

## TESTS FOR WOMEN CRICKETERS

A TEAM of 16 women cricketers arrive in this country from Australia on Sunday, May 13, for an English season of 20 games, including three Test matches. They open their tour against a Kent eleven at Sevenoaks on May 19.

This will be the second English visit of Australian women cricketers; the first was in 1937. English women's teams have visited Australia twice, and in all nine Tests have been played of which England have won

three, Australia two, and four games have been drawn.

Miss Molly Dive, of New South Wales, is the captain of a fine team which includes Miss Betty Wilson, an all-round cricketer; in the last Test against England at Adelaide she not only scored a century, but dismissed six English women for 24 runs.

Our Australian visitors, one and all, are assured of a real English welcome. May the sun shine on them throughout their tour.

## NEW TENANTS OF DEVIL'S ISLAND

MANY young readers will have heard of Devil's Island in French Guiana. Here in former times Frenchmen convicted of serious crimes used to serve their sentences, but in 1946 its use as a penal settlement was discontinued, and it relapsed into jungle.

In 1947 France decided to exploit the fertile soil of the island, and, as a first step, capable farmers and craftsmen were chosen from among the many displaced persons in the camps of the International Refugee Organisation of the United Nations. In June 1949 about one hundred of these homeless people left Europe to settle in the island.

An I.R.O. official reported recently that the settlement now boasts a power station, bakery, food and furnishing store, and workshops. A technical school is operating, roads are under construction, and refugee children are learning French. Though the work is hard, and much remains to be done, the refugees are happy in their new home after years of inactivity.

## Help for those who need it most

THE British Junior Red Cross has had the happy idea of encouraging young people in this country to commemorate the Festival of Britain by giving a helping hand to children in the British Colonies less fortunately placed—children in leper settlements, children physically handicapped, children of displaced persons who are trying to build up their lives anew.

These children are desperately in need of new clothes, picture books, and handicraft materials of all kinds, and we can all help by sending such gifts to: The Director, Junior Red Cross, British Red Cross Society Stores, Lewisham, London. The parcel should include the name and address of the sender's school.

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## CYCLE SERVICE

### 6. The gear to ride

COUNT the teeth on the chain-wheel, divide by the number of teeth on the cog of the back wheel, and multiply by the diameter of the back wheel in inches. The answer measures the gear you are riding.

For example, if there are 48 teeth on the chain-wheel, 18 teeth on the rear sprocket, and the wheels of the bicycle are 26 inches in diameter—then you would be riding a gear of 66.4—a sensible gear, incidentally, for most purposes. This figure of 66.4 multiplied by 3.14159 (pi) gives the distance in inches traversed by the cycle for each pedal revolution.

The higher the gear, the faster you will travel for the same speed of pedalling. A higher gear demands more effort, however, and particularly on a long run you will soon become tired from pushing a high gear, whereas you could have comfortably turned a lower gear all day.

Learn, therefore, to pedal smoothly a lower gear. You will soon be passing on the road the high-gear pushers! V.S.

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## Northern nursery of the seals

EVERY spring one of the world's strangest meetings takes place in the North Pacific. A United States coastguard cutter leaves a west coast port and steams out to sea. Within a matter of hours of the vessel's arrival at a certain point marked on the chart, an old bull seal meets the ship and then heads north.

While the cutter continues to wait, the ocean round her suddenly becomes alive with seals, all swimming in an orderly procession in the wake of their scarred old leader. Then the vessel takes up its position beside the herds, handing over its guardian duties to a sister ship farther up the coast.

This human escort continues until all the seals have safely arrived at the Pribilof Islands in the Behring Sea.

Here, in this mist-shrouded region, each seal makes for the particular island on which it was born, for the Pribilofs are the seals' home and breeding ground. Every spring they leave the warm southern waters where they have spent the winter to trek back to their birthplace, for here many thousands of baby seals are about to be born.

Soon after the new "pups" have been born their mothers leave them in crèches, or "pods," all day while they splash back into the sea to forage for food. Although all seal pups look alike to the human eye, each mother is able unerringly to pick out her own offspring from the mass of mewling, whimpering babies, in the pod on her return.

### The orphan

Despite the intelligence of the mother seals in forming crèches for their pups, they show a curious indifference when one of the baby seals is orphaned. The motherless pup is neglected and starves to death.

When the pups are about six weeks old they are taken down to the water and taught to swim by their parents. As soon as the young creatures are proficient they are considered capable of looking after themselves, and are left to forage for their own food.

All through the summer months the seals stay up in their northern islands. Then, with the approach of autumn, the old bull leader



Young pup of a seal

waddles down to the water's edge, and with a farewell roar plunges in to guide his furry tribe back to the south again.

A fascinating half-hour film entitled *Seal Island* has been presented by Walt Disney. It is not a cartoon but was photographed in Technicolor on the Pribilof Islands, and shows most vividly the full cycle of this annual gathering of the seals.

The two illustrations in these columns are from the film.

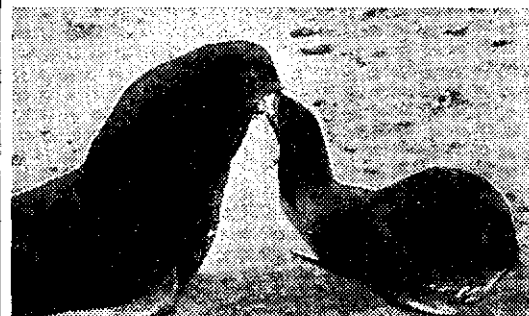
### Saving the Seals

The reason why the U.S. Government sends a coastguard cutter to police the seal herds every year is that these creatures are protected by an international agreement, signed in 1911 between Great Britain, America, Japan, and Russia.

Alaska, and the Pribilof Islands which lie off its coast, originally belonged to Russia. In 1867 the United States purchased the whole area together with the seal industry for the sum of seven million dollars.

But sealskins and seal oil are valuable commodities, and while the herds were left unguarded poachers of other nations slaughtered the creatures indiscriminately. Trouble occurred when the American authorities tried to drive off these ruthless gangs, and international tension began to rise.

These incidents and the growing danger of the seal herds being decimated led the Americans to call a conference between the interested powers. As a result the seals received a charter of protection, and their annual escort.



Mother and son on Seal Island

## SPEEDING COAL TO THE SURFACE

BESWOOD Colliery's 1200-yard-long "Lancaster" drift—the biggest of its kind in Europe—has just begun operations. In the first week 10,000 tons of coal were hauled up from the Nottinghamshire mine at 350 feet a minute along eight miles of conveyor belts.

Eventually this great tunnel, which has been constructed from the surface to the coalface at a gradient of one in four, is planned to carry a million tons a year.

The maximum capacity of the conveyors is 600 tons an hour.

The drift system of coal-getting is said to have great advantages. It conserves manpower, improves the over-all efficiency of the mine, and can be used to relieve the work of the shafts which deal with deeper measures. The man-handling of tubs, which is normal in coal-mining, is dispensed with, and the whole conveyor process can be stopped by one man at the surface.



## PILOT PUSHES HIS PLANE

SURELY the first pilot in the world to push his aeroplane along and jump in while it is moving is Lieutenant John Hodgkin of the U S Air Force Reserve.

He recently achieved this feat on the top of a mountain in Washington State when he probably also achieved his object of making the highest landing and take-off in flying history.

In a light aircraft equipped with skis, he landed on the snow-clad summit of Mount Rainier, 14,408 feet high. Unable to start his engine again, he found himself stranded in a temperature of 29 degrees below zero at the top of a frozen slope leading down to a precipice.

Other aircraft dropped fuel and equipment to him by parachute, but still he could not get the engine going. He then thought he could start it if he were airborne, so he pushed the plane down the slope and jumped into it as it was moving. The plane rushed down and shot over the edge where, luckily, an upward air current caught it.

Still he could not start the engine, and he realised that his only chance was to glide down, taking advantage of the air currents. He saw a frozen lake below and landed safely.

## Meeting of the model-fliers

BUILDERS of model planes are holding their International Model Flying Meeting this coming week-end at the Handley Page Aerodrome, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

They will compete for the Bowden Trophy, which is for models carrying an eight-ounce "pilot." This will be the first Payload contest officially held in Britain. The Aeromodeller Trophy Contest is for powered models guided from the ground by means of radio remote-control.

The International Power Contest is a duration competition for model planes which are powered by internal-combustion engines.

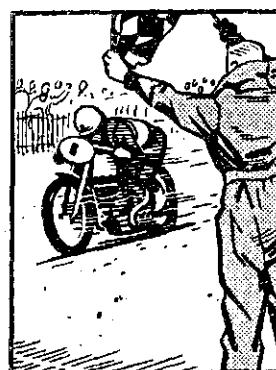
## Steps to Sporting Fame



Captain of New Cross speedway team for 1951 is Eric French, who recently set a new record for the Wimbledon track.

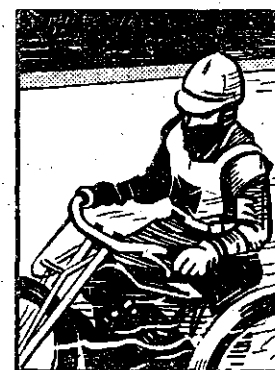


Eric rode a motor-cycle as a schoolboy, and machines have always played a big part in his life. He prepared for a racing career on a small track he laid out himself.



Then came grass track racing. Starting in 1935, he won over 80 trophies before the war. After a speedway trial in 1938, he rode for Wimbledon and also for Bristol.

## Eric French



Eric joined New Cross in 1946, and made a reputation as a team man. He rode for England v Australia in 1949, but injury put him out of action early in the meeting.

## Tenth birthday of jet-propelled aircraft

TEN years ago, on May 15, 1941, there was some consternation among civilians living near the R.A.F. Station at Cranwell. The still of the evening had been shattered by a mysterious thud from the airfield, followed by the brief appearance of a small aeroplane emitting a shrill whistle.

An iron curtain of wartime security prevented watchers on the ground from learning more about the machine until several years later. But, unknowingly, they had seen the start of an exciting new chapter in the history of aviation.

The machine was the Gloster-Whittle E.28/39, with the late P. E. G. Sayer as pilot. Built around the W.1 gas-turbine engine designed by Sir Frank

Whittle, it was the first successful jet aircraft to fly.

Previous experiments had been carried out with jet propulsion in Germany and Italy. Two machines with this form of power had flown before the E.28/39, but development had been abandoned because their engines were unsuitable. It was not until some time after the first flight of the British machine that the Germans revived their interest.

As soon as the vast potentialities of the Whittle jet engine were realised it was decided to fit them to fighters, and this led to the famous Meteor being designed.

In the meantime, further development of the turbines was entrusted to aero-engine manufacturers, who strove to attain greater power and efficiency from the units and cut their high fuel consumption—all of which they achieved with great success.

Several of the early engines were shipped to the United States to "father" designs across the Atlantic. Gradually the jet era dawned.

Long before the last shot had been fired in Europe, plans had been made for producing jet airliners—machines that would cut pre-war flying times by half, and carry travellers high above the

clouds in vibrationless comfort.

These projects, ambitious as they seemed during the war, have become a reality in a remarkably short time.

The prototype Meteor, the immediate offspring of the E.28/39, had a top speed of only 375 m.p.h. and research machines shoot through the skies faster than sound.

The flight on that memorable May evening marked one of the great achievements of mankind. In aviation, it is considered an event second only in importance to the first flight of Orville and Wilbur Wright. Of the untiring efforts of Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle and his team at Power Jets Ltd we should feel justly proud.

## FARM DEER

IN pre-war days a herd of deer used to roam the woodlands of Rackheath Park, a few miles from Norwich, but today there is only one survivor.

Now practically domesticated, this deer is not so lonely as might be imagined. By day it grazes with the cows on a farm at Rackheath, and at night it is either in the fields or in the farm buildings with the other animals.

## THE BRONTËS AT HOME

THE thousands of people who this year visit Haworth Parsonage Museum in Yorkshire will see some fresh possessions of the Brontë family displayed.

Among the new exhibits is Charlotte's doll's cradle, as well as a new portrait of her painted by Branwell's friend, J. H. Thompson. Other pictures include portraits of Wellington and Thackeray, given to Charlotte by her publisher, and some of her own sketches.

Many of the rooms in the Parsonage have been re-decorated in the style of 1840. The parlour is set out as Mr Brontë knew it, and so is the study used by the Revd Arthur Bell Nicholls, Charlotte's husband and curate in her father's parish. Six mahogany chairs which were used by the family have also been returned to their old home.

But the most interesting exhibit of all is an unpublished diary fragment written by Emily Brontë when she was eighteen. It is signed by her and Anne and dated "Monday evening, June 26, 1837"—Branwell's birthday. It also has a sketch depicting the two sisters writing at a table on a "rather coolish thin grey cloudy but sunny day."

## How to catch smugglers

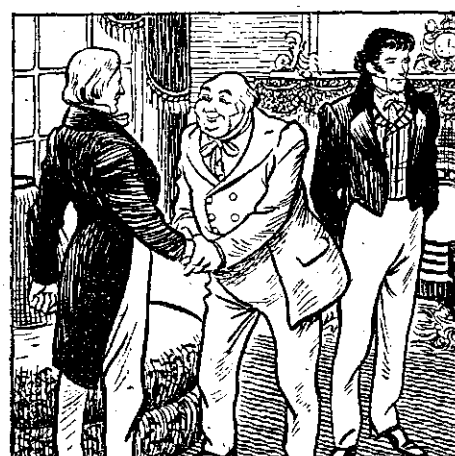
AN Israeli police-sergeant recently caught a gang of smugglers because he remembered a verse from the Bible.

The smugglers had a string of donkeys carrying contraband goods, and when the police appeared they escaped, leaving the patient little donkeys behind.

The sergeant remembered Isaiah, chapter 1, verse 3: The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib. So he directed that the donkeys should be unloaded, kept without food for a while, and then released.

Away they trotted for home and a meal—followed by the police, who arrived hard on their heels and arrested the smugglers.

## NICHOLAS NICKLEBY—New picture-version of Dickens's great novel (final instalment)



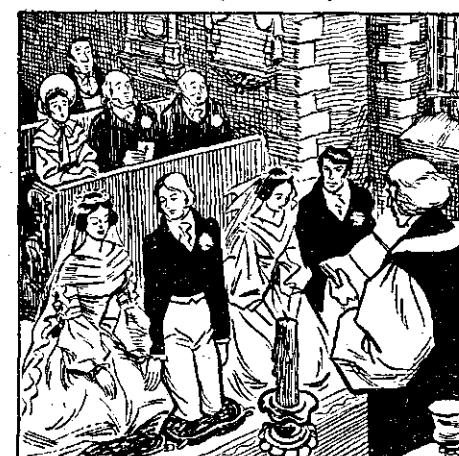
Generous old Charles Cheeryble was only teasing when he proposed that Frank should become Madeline's suitor. For the old man knew that Frank was in love with Nicholas's sister Kate; and Nicholas with Madeline. Frank said he thought Madeline was pledged to another. At that Charles seized Nicholas's hand. "Madeline's heart is occupied," he said. "It is occupied by you, and worthily and naturally. She chooses you, Mr Nickleby."



"She chooses as we, her dearest friends, would have her choose," continued Charles. "Frank chooses as we would have him choose." Then brother Ned Cheeryble came in with Kate. "Oh, Ned, Ned, what a happy day this is for you and me," cried Charles. "Let me see Kate, let me kiss her. I have a right to do so now." Heartily the old man did so while his brother said playfully: "Come, come, Frank will be jealous."



"Madeline's in the next room," said Charles, and at this news Nicholas rushed out. He had not previously told Madeline of his love for her because he thought the Cheerybles would not have approved of it. "Let all the lovers get out of the way and talk among themselves, if they've got anything to say," cried Charles. Mrs Nickleby, quite overcome by the happy way everything had turned out, could not restrain tears of joy.



Nicholas and Madeline, and Frank and Kate, had a double wedding. Madeline's fortune was invested in the Cheeryble's business, in which Nicholas became a partner. Dotheboys Hall, the wretched school in Yorkshire, ceased to exist when the cruel schoolmaster, Squeers, was imprisoned for his crimes. Newman Noggs, the clerk, who had done so much for Nicholas Nickleby, lived near him in happy retirement in a little cottage.

The adventures of Till Eulenspiegel, the mischievous rascal of German folklore, begin on this page next week



# An ARTIST in SOUTH AFRICA

WE begin here a series of articles specially written and illustrated for the CN by the well-known artist and author Richard Ogle. With pen and pencil he has vividly recorded his impressions of a holiday tour with his family in South Africa, and he gives fascinating glimpses of the people, the wild life, and the magnificent scenery of that great country.

The road to the game reserve at Cape Point leaves Cape Town by the coastal route winding over Kloof Nek, with its wealth of silver trees shimmering in the vivid sunlight, down into Camp's Bay, and then below that remarkable mountain formation known as the Twelve Apostles.

The ragged peaks tail off from Table Mountain to the conical little Lion's Head and, as we drove round the curving bay, the great Atlantic swell swung shorewards in brilliant emerald green rollers that thundered among giant slabs of volcanic rock.

Continuing along what is assuredly a passage perilous, we drove over the great rugged pass known as Chapman's Peak. Here the road climbed along the mountainside and we peered down several hundred feet into the depths of the Atlantic as the strong wind rocked our car like a feather. So we came down into Chapman's Bay, 450 feet below, where a solitary black man was

"cricking" for protection against their enemies.

As we continued our journey, we found that we were entering a veritable no-man's-land of jumbled rocks and barren sweeping uplands with shrub-like trees clinging precariously to life and the scrub and stunted grass, dull yellowy-brown against the brick-red earth, which would serve as a setting for Dante's *Inferno*.

As we drove up to the last narrow neck of land we came to a metal farm-gate across the road. Here a coloured man in the uniform of the National Parks Board issued our passes for the reserve with one of those ingratiating smiles that captivate nearly every visitor to Africa.

No-one was in sight beyond—no building, and, at first, no life. It was here that we began to realise the significance of natural camouflage.

"Look," I called suddenly, "isn't there something moving on that distant bluff?"

We stopped and focused our glasses. Even then it was some minutes before my daughter's young eyes detected a family of zebras cropping the unsucculent grass; for at only 200 yards they blended quite perfectly with the broken background of rocky soil.

Like the numerous breeds of antelope that

we presently encountered, these zebras avoided the skylines by some instinct; and although none of these wild creatures attempt to move off until one is close upon them, they are still difficult to locate with the naked eye.

The Cape Reserve, being a recent acquisition, is only sparsely stocked with wild life, so its broad acres of scrub and rock bordering on the sea afford ample refuge, and a visitor gets only rare glimpses of the game.

Its one road leads to an abrupt conical hill which forms the actual Cape of Good Hope, of sinister reputation.

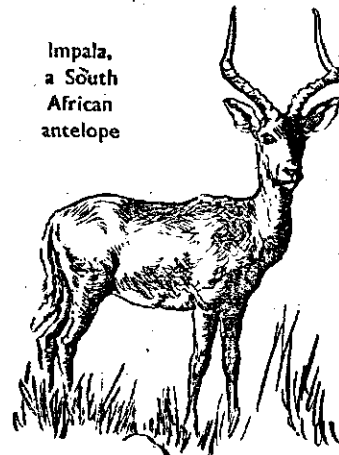
I climbed to the summit, where there is a radio station, to make a painting, and from there saw a lighthouse tucked into the granite face of this precipitous cliff about half-way down. An earlier lighthouse had been where I sat, but the mists settling upon the point, as they do on Table Mountain, had obscured the light—these mists, brought up by the "South

Westers" are, in fact, responsible for the Cape's evil reputation.

Even as I painted, a mist rose, wrapping me away from the world so that, on my narrow ledge, I felt poised upon the very edge of eternity. As I sat helpless for the time being, listening to the roar and tumble of the surf hundreds of feet below, my mind turned to the legend of the Flying Dutchman, for the occasional glimpse of the sea-wrack seemed to take the form of his ill-starred ship.

I hung on grimly, my patience presently being rewarded with a return of the sunshine; and as

Impala,  
a South  
African  
antelope



I finished my painting, my eyes turned to the little cove hard by with its shimmering silver sand. But the sand had turned black since I last looked at it and I thought for a moment that my eyes had been affected by the glare of the sun.

Standing up, I carefully focused my field-glasses upon the spot—the blackness was a multitude of moving objects, and I gasped in astonishment as the glasses showed them to be hundreds of chacma baboons. Evidently they had been searching for shell-fish and were now on the move inland once more, like an army corps.

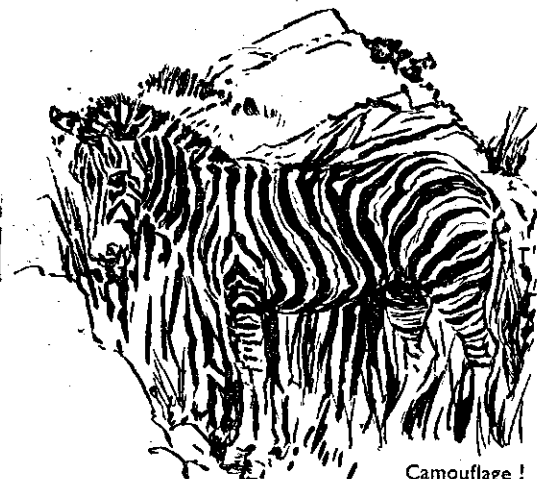
Then I remembered the warning never to leave a car in the vicinity of baboons, for they have been known to wreck vehicles through sheer mischievous curiosity. A male chacma baboon, it



must be remembered, may be as much as four feet in height and, in addition to considerable muscles, has a jaw that is stronger than that of a mastiff.

I gathered my family, set the car in motion, and raced away from that moving column of mischief in the nick of time, for the baboons swarmed over the road only a brief interval behind us!

Next week Richard Ogle will give some glimpses of a picturesque people living in Cape Town—descendants of the Mohammedan Malays who migrated to South Africa more than 200 years ago.



Camouflage!

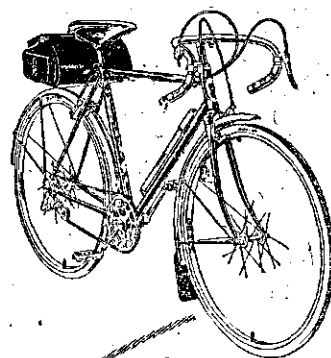
the only visible human being on the wide stretch of silver sand. Beyond, the open veld tailed into the isolation of the reserve.

ONE of my most vivid memories is the avenue of red gum trees that line the way to Kommetje, blazing like two streamers of fire on both sides of the road. Here we encountered the first of those huge red locusts, some four inches long; they flopped down beside us when we halted for a cooling drink from our flasks, the temperature in the peninsula, even in early summer, being about 101 in the shade.

My first impression of these giant insects was of something that had strayed out of a Mickey Mouse film, so brilliant, so out of proportion, so seemingly helpless as they crawled in the dust. These locusts inhabit the more arid parts of South Africa and are carried along by the wind, dependent alone on their loud



## Hercules NEWS

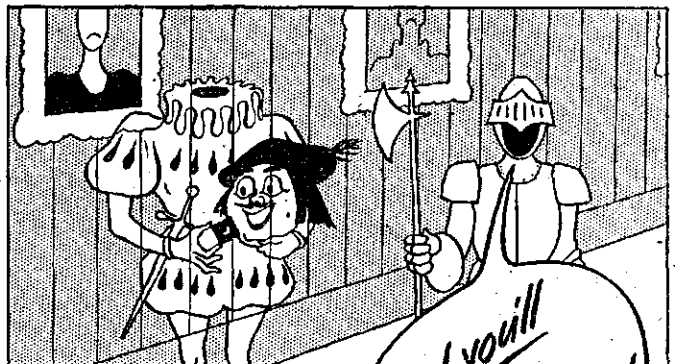


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Airmen love SPANGLES Fairmen love SPANGLES

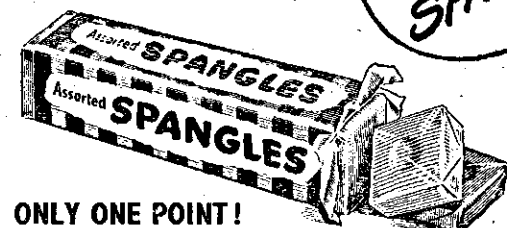


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come to scare men

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and you'll  
love  
SPANGLES!



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# C N Bookshelf

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*Snowstone*, by J. M. Scott (Brockhampton Press, 6s).

A FINE tale of adventure among Eskimos in the Arctic, written by an explorer who knows well the land and the people.

J. M. Scott was one of Gino Watkins' chosen men on his great Arctic exploration, and when Watkins lost his life in a kayak accident, J. M. Scott wrote his biography, one of the best-known exploring books of our time. Boys and girls will appreciate him as an adventure story writer.

## Jungle thrills

*Amazon Adventure*, by Willard Price (Cape, 9s).

WHEN their father had to return home, Hal and Roger Hunt carried on with the expedition into the Amazon jungle to collect livestock for zoos. This exciting story of their adventures is illustrated with numerous sketches of South American wild life.

## A young Tarzan

*Bomba the Jungle Boy*, by Roy Rockwood (Ward, Lock, 6s).

A FASCINATING story about a 14-year-old boy who, for as long as he can remember, has lived wild in the Amazon jungle, and understands the language of birds and animals. Bomba has featured in a series of films.

## Young friends of old

*The Brydons Get Things Going*, by Kathleen Fidler (Lutterworth Press, 7s 6d).

OUR old radio friends, the Brydons, entertain us again in this lively book. This time they get into all kinds of quandaries—with clocks, an armchair with a secret, and their own concert. But all ends well.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### Gip learns his lesson

GIP was a black and white terrier who lived in a village. He was just old enough not to be called a puppy, so he was neither as grown-up nor as wise as he thought.

Up to the present he had always tried to obey his little mistress, Helen. But now, when they went walking through the fields he did not keep to so obediently. And three times he had to be spoken to severely for trying to scramble through the hedge into the wood. This was absolutely forbidden, for Daddie had warned Helen that the Keeper would punish Gip if he went in there, in case he frightened the pheasants.

And then one fine morning, when Helen was at school, two of the bold village dogs came swaggering past the front gate. "Come on!" they cried. "We're going exploring in the wood."

Now, Gip did remember that this was forbidden. "But I don't see why I shouldn't," he

## An island of one's own

*Fourwinds Island*, by Vega Stewart (Collins, 8s 6d).

AN unusual tale about an orphan girl whose eccentric grandfather leaves her a lonely island. In great excitement she enters her inheritance, but finds the islanders strangely aloof, and some sinister mystery about the place. Her friends Brenda and George help her to solve it.

## Wrong way up

*The Island of Radiant Pearls*, by F. E. Knight (Hollis & Carter, 6s).

WHEN you see an island which is larger at the top than at the bottom—like an inverted pyramid on the water—you may well suspect there's something queer about it; and so young John Dawlish and his friends found about the radio-active isle in this exciting tale.

## Recommended books

*How to Recognise Young Birds* (The Young Naturalist series), by Eric Pochin (Brockhampton Press, 3s 6d).

Albert, Schweitzer—Genius in the Jungle, by Joseph Gollomb (Peter Nevill, 10s 6d).

Fairy Tales from the Isle of Man, by Dora Broome (Penguin Books, 1s 6d).

Magic as a Hobby, by Bruce Elliott (Faber, 12s 6d).

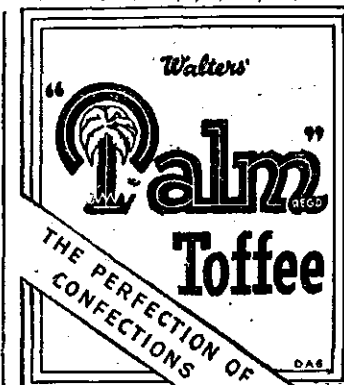
Blondel the Minstrel, by Allen W. Seaby (Harrap, 6s).

British Plants, by H. L. Edlin (Batsford, 15s).

Tiddlers and Tadpoles, by S. Francis Blackwell and A. Fraser-Brunner (Medallion Press, 3s 6d).

MCC Book for the Young Cricketer (Naldrett Press, 10s 6d).

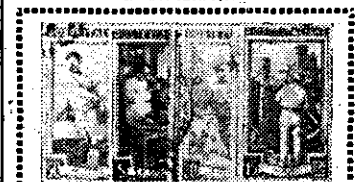
The Boys' Book of Cricket for 1951 (Evans, 10s 6d).



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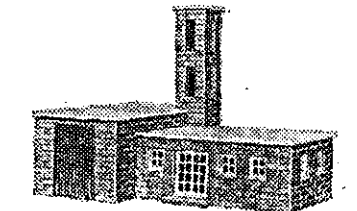
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The Children's Newspaper, May 12, 1951



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## SPORTS SHORTS

THE first of the season's great international athletics contests will be held at the White City this week-end. These are the British Games, incorporated with the inter-counties championships. Among the world-famous competitors at the Games will be the tall, dusky sprinter, Andy Stanfield, and Mal Whitfield, the 1948 Olympics 800 metres champion.

Our own Roger Bannister, fresh from his triumphant mile run in America is sure of a great welcome.

A big event this week-end will be the Walker Cup match, at Birkdale, Cheshire, between British and American amateur golfers.

IAN CALDWELL, of Chipstead, Surrey, is the youngest member of the British Walker Cup team. He is a 20-year-old dental student at Guy's Hospital, and is making his first appearance in the British team. He has been practising for the last four months.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS, the world's greatest basketball team, start a week of matches at Wembley next Monday. These huge, dusky fellows have played basketball all over the world. During the last 20 years they have played 3667 games, and lost only 245.

JACK ROBERTSON, the stylish Middlesex opening batsman, will be hoping for sunshine over the Whitsun week-end, when he takes his benefit match at Lord's—against Sussex. He first appeared for Middlesex at Whitsun in 1937, and has since scored over 15,000 runs.

### YOUNG QUIZ

- 1 Who said: To youth I have but three words of counsel: Work, work, work?
- 2 A diadem is: a game, a crown, or a chemical container?
- 3 What famous man assumed the name of Aircraftman Shaw?
- 4 What do the letters F I D O stand for?
- 5 Can you name the book with the subtitle: The man who was a thing?
- 6 Who made the first aeroplane flight in this country?
- 7 When was the Battle of Navarino?
- 8 Where was the Great Exhibition of 1851 held?

Answers on page 12

## Local Government explained

Last week, in dealing with the cost of local government, we showed how rates were calculated and levied, and how the Central Government contributed by percentage grants towards such items as education and housing. This final article discusses some of the problems on which opinions differ, as a recent debate in the House of Lords showed.

### PROBLEMS FOR THE FUTURE

MANY expert students of the subject and its problems declare that there is urgent need for a complete reform of our system of local government.

Its present structure, they point out, has not been changed during the past fifty years, even though there has been a tremendous increase in the duties and responsibilities of local authorities over that period.

Although most people concerned with local government agree that reform is necessary, there is disagreement as to the lines that reform should take.

Shortly after the end of the Second World War the Government set up a special Boundary Commission to review and make changes in the areas of local government, and although this Commission did very useful work they, too, soon came to the conclusion that they could not do their job properly until there had been a major reform.

Why is reform necessary, and what are the problems? Finance, discussed last week, is a major problem. You will remember that local authorities have not sufficient financial resources of their own to pay for all the services, which the law says they must provide.

The result is that the Government steps in and helps the local authorities by giving them grants-in-aid. But—to use a well-known expression—"he who pays the piper calls the tune," and the Government necessarily exercises very close control over the authorities so as to be satisfied that the money is properly

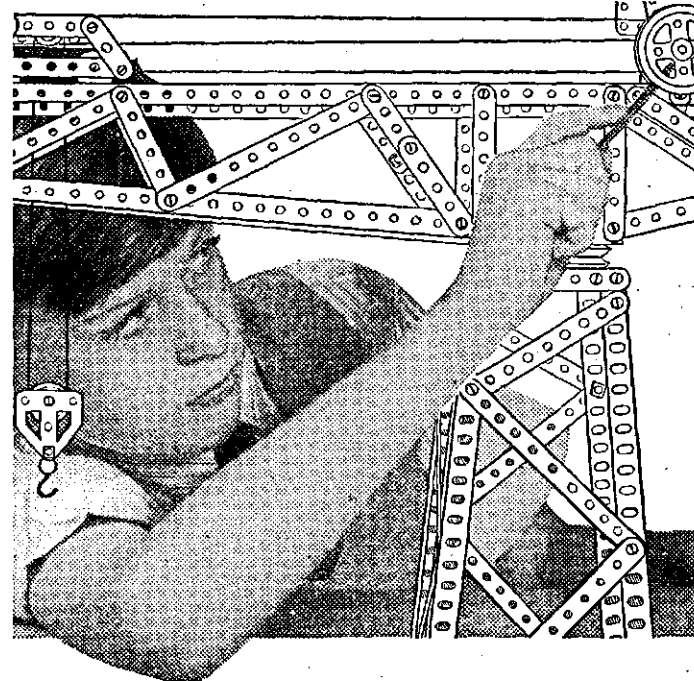
spent. Local authorities, therefore, are in great danger of becoming mere agents or servants of the Central Government and not independent authorities existing in their own right.

Another problem is in the way responsibilities are divided up between county councils and county district councils. There is a tendency for parliament to take away more and more services from the county district councils—the smaller authorities—and entrust them to the county councils and county borough councils.

Some people think that unless this tendency is stopped the time will come when there is so little of importance left for the smaller councils to do that no-one will want to become members, no-one will be interested in what little they do, and so local government in this country will gradually disappear.

If this were ever to happen it would be a bad thing. We all of us believe in democracy: we believe in the government of the people, by the people, for the people, and local government is essentially that.

As we said in our first article, local government is really democracy in action more or less on our own doorsteps. Of course, county councils, as we now know, are local authorities like all the others, but county councils, because they are big and govern large areas, are inclined to be rather remote—rather a long way both in distance and in thought, as it were—from the people as a whole.



"One more bolt, Dad—and I've done it!"

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## THE BRAN TUB

### Taking no chances

LADY: You know, you would stand much more chance of getting a job if you were to shave and make yourself presentable.

Tramp: I know, ma'am; I found that out years ago.

### May halves

HERE are six famous people with anniversaries in May. Can you fit the right tails on the right heads? You should find the maiden name of a Queen of England, an admiral, a physician, and a poet (all English), a German composer, and an Indian poet.

TAG NER      DRY NEY  
ROD DEN      JEN ORE  
WAG EYN      BOL NER

Answer next week

### Heavy going

THE kindly old gentleman stopped when he saw the small boy carrying a huge bundle of newspapers.

"Don't all those newspapers make you tired?" he asked.

"No," replied the boy. "I don't read them."

### Beheading

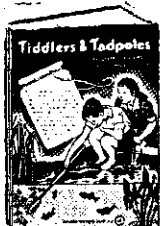
I CHIDE, reprove, and reprimand. Cut off my head, and find a chill.

Or wintry weather, if you will. Behead me once again, sir, and You'll find that I have lost my youth; I am not young, to tell the truth.

Answer next week



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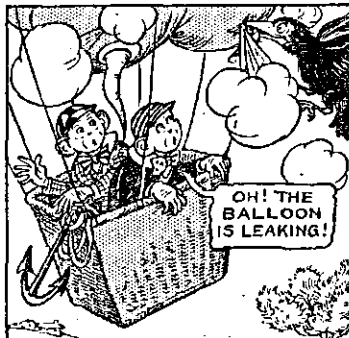
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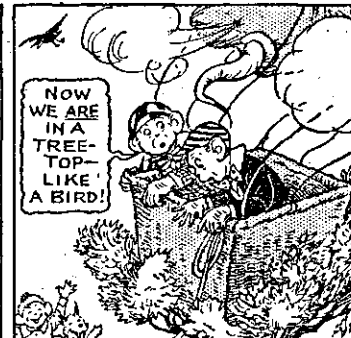
## The rise and fall of Jacko and Chimp



Jacko and Chimp had their "heads in the clouds" in the balloon.



But their lofty ambitions were quite suddenly punctured.



And soon they were wishing they could "come down to earth."

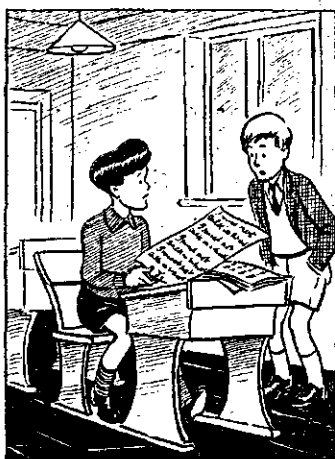
### Once was enough

HE was complaining of a sore throat.

"Why don't you try gargling with salt water?" said his friend.

"No fear," he replied. "I had too much of that when I was swimming last year."

### RODDY



"Five hundred lines! You wouldn't think there was a paper shortage!"

### Tact

FIRST clerk: Have you and your boss ever had any differences of opinion?

Second clerk: Oh yes, several times, but he didn't know it.

### Riddle-my-name

My first's in lamb, not calf;  
My next in whole, not half;  
My third's in leaf, not flower;  
My fourth's in moat and tower;  
My fifth's in smart and trim;  
My sixth in slight and slim;  
My next's in colt, not foal;  
My last in vase, not bowl.  
A girl, to judge by looks,  
Who hits what Mother cooks!

Answer next week

### Farmer Gray explains

Sticklebacks. Vast shoals of sticklebacks could be seen in the clear water of the Long Pond.

"There's a lovely redthroat!" called Don excitedly.

"Are they a different kind?" asked Ann.

"No; it is simply a male in his Spring finery," remarked Farmer Gray. "There are three kinds of sticklebacks in Great Britain—the three-spined, which is most common; the ten-spined; and the fifteen-spined. The last is a marine species, although it is sometimes found in brackish water around estuaries. The males of all three species don gay colours during the Spring."

### Do you know that . . . ?

CHINA Proper (within the Great Wall) is approximately as big as Europe (excluding Russia). Many of its 20 provinces are larger than Great Britain.

THE ratio of Africans to Europeans in Tanganyika is about 700 to 1.

A JET-PROPELLED aircraft flying nonstop at 400 mph would take 26 years to reach the Sun.

A PYGMY of average weight, about 75 lbs, has been known to eat 60 bananas at a single meal.

SOME 42 inches of rain have fallen in 24 hours at Cherrapunji. The mean annual rainfall of London is 25 inches.

### A bit thick

THERE was an old fellow named Deer

Whose taste was remarkably queer.

His favourite drink  
Was black treacle and ink,  
Which he drank every day of the year.

### A drawing teaser

DRAW two parallel lines two inches long and two inches apart, and join the ends (top left to bottom right and vice versa) to form two triangles, apex to apex.

The problem is to make a complete figure of ten triangles by adding only five more lines.

Answer next week

### Other worlds

IN the evening Venus is in the south-west, Uranus in the south, and Saturn low in the south-east. In the morning Jupiter is low in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon at 7 o'clock (BST) on Wednesday evening, May 9.



### Indoor cricket

YOUNG GARTH removed his mother's fender, Took up his bat and said to Brenda:

"While I stand here, you bowl to me; The fireplace are our stumps, you see."

"Why?" Brenda asked, with puzzled looks.

"Well I've been studying father's books, And thought it would be fun," said Garth.

"If we played Cricket on the Hearth."

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# Ovaltine

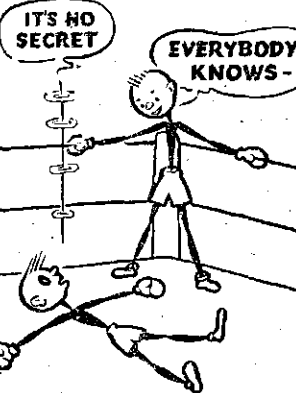
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# Wilkinson's

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HAVE NO EQUAL

### Last week's answers

Riddle-my-Name  
Douglas (anagram of "us glad o")

### Hidden birds and animals

Rat, crow, shrew, hare, stoat, hen, owl, heron, thrush and dove

Jumbled cricket

counties

Lancashire, Gla-

morgan, Somerset,

Middlesex,

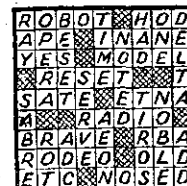
Worcester, York-

shire

Odd addition

Twelve Twenty:

Twenty



### YOUNG QUIZ—Answers

- 1 Bismarck.
- 2 A crown.
- 3 Lawrence of Arabia.
- 4 Fog, intensive dispersal of.
- 5 Uncle Tom's Cabin.
- 6 S. F. Cody.
- 7 1827.
- 8 Hyde Park, London.